

Poulson's American Daily Advertiser
Feb. 08, 1812

EARTHQUAKES

Several distinct shocks or undulations of the Earth, were felt in this city yesterday morning, a few minutes before four o'clock. To several persons it appeared as if their bedsteads were raised under them by a pressure below.

One gentleman describes it, as being so violent as to force open a folding door of a wardrobe in his bed chamber, and others state, that their chamber doors were thrown open, and articles suspended loosely from ceilings and walls were kept in oscillation for more than a minute. The undulations were more sensibly felt in the Southern than in the Northern part of the city.

Mr. Poulson,

The Earthquake which happened this morning was by my watch at 4h and 24m A.M. - I find by T Parker's Regulator, that my watch was slow 3m and 30s, this will give the correct time, 4h 27m 30s A.M. The duration of the trembling was at least 1m and 30s probably (?) with short intervals of quickness. The person who awaken me at the commencement, stated it began with a noise, resembling the very quick passage of a dray over hard ground. The motion appeared to be from West to East or from East to West.

All the furniture of my chamber was much agitated particularly the bed in which I slept, and the drawer handles of a desk and book case, standing on the west side, which continued to rattle for some seconds after the motion of the bedstead had ceased.

I send you these remarks with the assurance that you may depend upon the correctness of the time - Perhaps some other person may have similar observations in different places, by comparing which together, an idea may be formed of the centre from which the numerous late shocks have proceeded.

Feb. 7, 1812

W. V.